RDECOM

Media Advisory

TARDEC

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U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) Speakers to be Featured at NDIA's Robotics Vehicle Life Cycle Conference

DETROIT ARSENAL, WARREN, MI ─ Senior U.S. Army and USMC leaders will headline the National Defense Industrial Association's 2008 Annual Robotics Vehicle Life Cycle Conference Aug. 12-13 at the Marriott Detroit Troy in Troy, MI.

The conference focuses on how DOD takes robotic system requirements coming from warfighters in the field and subsequently transitions enabling technologies from throughout the entire vehicle life cycle from concept exploration through system retirement. Attendees will learn how the military moves from requirements to advanced technology development; advanced component development and prototypes; to systems development and demonstration; to procurement; and, finally, to the operations and maintenance phases.

This framework for manned and unmanned ground systems development helps maintain and enhance the technologies in the field to provide our warfighters with the most advanced capability over the entire system's life cycle.

The military and government leaders who will be presenting include:*

- "Congressional Perspective," Sen. Carl Levin (D-MI), Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.
- "Bringing the RDECOM Community Together to Transition Capability to the Warfighter," MG Fred D. Robinson, Commanding General, U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command.
- "TACOM's Emerging Role as Life Cycle Management Center for Unmanned Ground Vehicles," MG Scott G. West, Commanding General, U.S. Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command.
- "U.S. Army Budget Overview and Priorities," MG David D. Halverson, Director of Force Development, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8.
- "TARDEC Intelligent Ground Systems Focus," Dr. Grace M. Bochenek, Director, U.S. Army Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC).
- "Robotic Systems Joint Project Office (RS JPO) Update," COL James R. Braden, Project Manager (PM), RS JPO.

- "Developing Robotic Requirements Based on *Operations Enduring* and *Iraqi Freedom* Experience," COL Mike Winstead, Chief, Maneuver and Soldier Division, U.S. Army Capabilities Integration Center.

TARDEC senior leaders will present a "TARDEC Robotics" panel session on Wednesday, Aug. 13. Topics and speakers include:

- "TARDEC Robotics Strategy," Dr. Paul Rogers, Executive Director, TARDEC Research Business Group.
- "Emerging Opportunities Within the Joint Center for Robotics (JCR)," Dr. Jim Overholt, Director, JCR.
- "Robotic Vehicle Control Architectures and Autonomous Platform Demonstrator," Chris Ostrowski, TARDEC Technical Program Manager for Unmanned Ground Vehicles.
- "Opportunities Within the Tech Base," and "Identification of Operational, Development and Sustainment Gaps and Needs," David Thomas, TARDEC Associate Director, Intelligent Ground Systems.
- "Future Combat Systems (FCS) Unmanned Systems Update," LTC Steven Noe, Product Manager, PM FCS (Brigade Combat Team) Unmanned Ground Vehicles.

The conference will include an industry panel featuring top executives from the major developers and manufacturers of current U.S. Army/USMC land-based robotic systems. Attendees can also hear from returning service men and women who will talk about their in-theater experiences during a "Warfighter Lessons Learned" panel. The 2-day event will also involve a Microsoft® developer workshop and an industry and academia meeting.

The Robotic Vehicle Life Cycle Conference provides an excellent opportunity to:

- Learn about science and technology innovations the Detroit Arsenal's JCR and its industry partners are developing to support Soldiers and Marines in the theater of operations.
- See live demonstrations of current Army and USMC robotic systems and prototypes.
- Meet with the major manufacturers of today's Army and USMC robotic manned and unmanned ground systems.
- Experience leading-edge robotics technology.
- Interact with key DOD subject-matter experts and learn about near-, mid- and far-term opportunities in this dynamic market.

"The Detroit Arsenal Robotics Center of Excellence is the synergy for the research, development, engineering, acquisition, logistics and support for every one of the robots we put in the theater today," explained TARDEC Director Dr. Grace M. Bochenek. "DOD has 5,000 robots in the field and that number will increase to 10,000 by the end of the year."

To register, go to http://ndia-mich.org/seminars/. For more information, visit http://www.ndia-mich.org/ or contact Event Chairperson Chuck Prikopa at chuck.prikopa@baesystems.com or (586) 588-0749. For exhibiter information, contact Larry Rink at larry.rink@amgeneral.com or (734) 523-8127.

For room reservations, call the Marriott Detroit Troy at (248) 680-9797. A block of discount rooms are available for $100 per night for government employees and $159 per night for industry employees.

TARDEC and RS JPO are participating with NDIA to support the conference. Industry sponsors are BAE Systems, Foster-Miller, Inc., General Dynamics Robotic Systems, iRobot®, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman Corporation (NGC) and NGC's subsidiary, Remotec, Inc.

*Information confirmed as of press time.

Note: There is an illustration that can be used with this release. To download the illustration, go to http://www.tardec.info/pressreleases/.

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TARDEC is the Nation's laboratory for advanced military ground systems and automotive technology. A leading technology integrator for the U.S. Army Materiel Command's Research Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM), TARDEC is headquartered at the Detroit Arsenal in Warren, MI, located in the heart of the world's automotive capitol. TARDEC is a major element of RDECOM and partner in the TACOM Life Cycle Management Command. As a full life-cycle engineering support provider-of-first-choice for all DOD ground combat and combat support weapons and vehicle systems, TARDEC develops and integrates the right technology solutions to improve Current Force effectiveness and provide superior capabilities for the Future Force. TARDEC's technical staff leads research in ground vehicle survivability; mobility/power and energy; robotics and intelligent systems; maneuver support and sustainment; and vehicle electronics and architecture. TARDEC develops and maintains ground vehicles for all U.S. Armed Forces and numerous federal agencies.

For additional information about TARDEC's forthcoming developments and other technologies, please contact Mike Roddin at mike.roddin@us.army.mil.